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Eileen L. Hughett  
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After Final Response  
Under 37 CFR 1.116  
Expedited Procedure  
Examining Group 1771  
Case JA-138

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:  
EBRAHIM REZAI ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/171,049

Filed: October 12, 1998

For: ABSORBENT ARTICLES HAVING  
IMPROVED STRUCTURAL  
STABILITY IN DRY AND WET  
STATES AND MAKING  
METHODS THEREFOR

Group Art Unit: 1771

Examiner: C. Pratt

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116 TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**  
**DATED SEPTEMBER 10, 2001**

Box AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated September 10, 2001, Applicants hereby submit the following Response. This response is intended to place the application in condition for allowance.